## TOPEKA'S RAILROAD MCA

(This is the twenty-third of a series of ticles published in the State Journal on speka churches and Christian organiza-

From a small beginning in 1882 the Railroad Y. M. C. A. of Topeka has become a great institution exerting a strong influence in the shop district. An organization or great movement cannot be properly dated from the time it first is known to the public. The R. R. Y. M. C. A. of Topeka first came to the surface in April, 1882. To came to the surface in April, 1882. To E. M. Sheldon, who was then in the Santa Fe general office, now with the store house department, and to Samuel Cross belong the credit of conducting the first two meetings. C. M. Rathburn, division superintendent, ordered and placed a coach in which they held meetings. After this a room was fitted up by the religious comwas fitted up by the railroad com-pany in the old house on Washington street, where the work was continued In 1883 J. W. Hughes was chairman.
In 1884 W. J. Hughes, J. B. Larimer,
J. J. Millerson, E. S. Williams, L. L.
Banister and C. R. Eastman formed
the committee in charge of the work.

First General Secretary. June 1, 1885, a call was extended to the first general secretary, who began work October 12—F. H. Fatt, of Canada. The president of the Central Y. M. C. A., R. D. Gemmell, reported at this time that A. A. Robinson, general manager of the Santa Fe Railroad company, had approved of their plans and authorized the approach of the control of the their plans and authorized the ap-pointment of a committee of railroad men to look after the financial inter-ests of the Railroad association. H. J. Crow, of the store house department, was a member of the board at this time. The finance committee was composed of the following men: Col.



Henry B. Lautz, who for nine years has been president of committee of

\$100 each toward the erection of our present building. From the rank and file of the men and women came the balance. In all was raised \$18,000 and President Ripley came to our help again and gave \$2,000 more tobuilding. The Santa also the Association half of a leased to the Association half of a square block on which the present building stands.

Roosevelt Laid Cornerstone, May 11, 1903, ex-President Theo-ore Roosevelt laid the cornerstone

with 17,000 persons present. It was a great day for Topeka. A. J. Johnson, J. O. Phillips, A. C. Armstrong, E. J. Cartiledge and W. C. Garvey.

April 7, 1886, Mr. Fatt resigned and

April 7, 1886, Mr. Fatt resigned and

have made deposits with the bank during that time. We endeavor to get the men to save so as to become permanent citizens. Educational Work. A few years ago we were doing more educational work than we are at the present time. The Santa Fe, seeing the advantage of educated mechanics, appropriated \$50,000 per year to instruct their own apprentices in the shops on company time, and they believe it is a paying proposition. We have classes in electricity, pen-manship, spelling, arithmetic, mechanical drawing, elementary, advanced and machine design, gas engine, pub-lic speaking and orchestra work.

We started to teach telegraphy and a number of our students are holding good positions. The Santa Fe, feeling the need of operators, started a school to teach men telegraphy and station practice. A large number of our stu-dents are holding extraordinary positions; for instance, one is general susitions; for instance, one is general su-perintendent for the Mexican Central Railroad company; another general foreman; another man who came to our elementary mechanical drawing class was receiving 15 cents per hour. He passed the examination, the next year passed the advanced mechanica drawing examination, and the third year was the only man who took the international examination in locomo tive and car design and passed. To day he is getting 34 cents per hour and is one of the foremen in our ma-chine shops. It would take too much time to tell of each individual case but proud of the work accom-in our educational depart-

ing their pay checks at the joints and

our committee on management de-cided to try and get one of the banks to come to our building on pay day and cash the employees checks. After two years' hard work we arranged

with the Topeka State Savings bank to

do this for us. In the four years we have cashed more than 30,000 checks, using \$1,680,000. More than 800 men

The Social Feature.

Another one of the great features of our association is the social life. Approximately 12,000 games were played on our pool and billiard tables. The chess, checkers, table croquet and bowling alleys are well patronized. We believe in giving our men and boys clean recreation. We also arrange free for our members an entertain-ment every Friday evening for the fall, winter and spring months.

These entertainments are of a high grade, composed of both local and outside talent. Last year we had 24 with an attendance of 8,323, and if our hall were larger we would have a still greater attendance. We had 79 Our gymnasium, tennis courts and

baseball field are well used. We visited 125 sick persons, gave 2,438 magazines away; assisted and found employment for 126 men, and loaned 1,166 books from our library.

Use Two Tons of Soap. Some one has said, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." We encourage

our men to take baths. Last year we gave 37,974 baths, using almost two tons of soap. In this, Topeka ranks

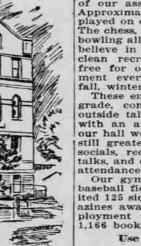
ew building was occupied January 1.
304, with an open house and New ear's day reception.

Prout Tells of the Work.

In speaking of the institution and sell transfent beds to association and sell transfent beds to association. members for 20 cents; to other rail road men for 25 cents each per night

Third in Religious Work. We rank third in the religious of the railroad associations of the country. We held last year 150 gospel meetings in the shops and in the as-sociation building, with 92 men at-

nominations represented and almost the shops, yards and building, with the shops, yards and building, with



Railroad Y. M. C A. Building Where a Great Work Is Undertaken.

April 21 R. L. Roberts, of Hornelsville, N. Y., was called to fill the secretary-ship. By-laws were adopted October Year's day reception. April 21 R. L. Roberts, of Horncisville, N. Y., was called to fill the secretary-ship. By-laws were adopted October 9, 1886. The first committee of man-agement was composed of A. F. Hil-ton, E. Paddock, W. J. Hughes, J. A.

1892 Charles Miller and Ernest Mills of men. We have 22 different defilled the position of general secretary, and in 1892 George Lerrigo, a young man from the general office building was called. During his term of office a number of improvements of office a number of improvements and merchants for special events and merchants for special events and men: 30 men requested prayer and ma'am? "Hard work put on a "We held 207 Bible class sessions in the shops, yards and building, with special events and provisions from florists and merchants for special events and men: 30 men requested prayer and "Mandalla and the state of the were made and the work good foundation. Mr. Lerrigo called to the general secretaryship of the Central Department of Topeka in 1895. C M. Jones was the next secre-tary, staying but one year. G. M. Cot-trell followed and stayed for a year a half, making special effort on financial and membership work. left to take the pastorate of a

church in Louisiana.

John Caldwell, an old worker in the Y. M. C. A., was next called and dur-ing his administration the building was remodeled and made much more comfortable and more fitted to meet the demands of an up-to-date institu-tion of its kind. It was at this time the membership fee was raised to \$3

Sevretary Caldwell left August 15, 1900, to take up the work in Texar-kana, Texas, and Thomas E. Prout, the present general secretary, was called to fill the vacancy.

There were 365 full paid regular and sustaining members in 1900.

A Blessing in Disguise.

April 26, 1902, at 6:30 Saturday eve ning when the building was crowded with men taking baths fire broke out. After the smoke had cleared away there was about a foot of water on ground floor and daybreak had ived. Who knows but that the came as a blessing in disguise, out of the ashes of the old came the agitation for a new building. At the time of the fire there were 821 The association did not e its doors but went right on with work and the membership con-led to grow. President Ripley of tinued to grow. President Ripley of the Santa Fe agreed that if we would raise \$10,000 he would give us \$20,000 toward the erection of a new building, and we immediately went to work. One firm in Topeka gave \$150. Seven years ago we found that a and 23 different persons or firms gave large number of our meh were cash-

its work, Secretary Prout had the following to say:

Some Early History.

September 19, 1889, the Santa Fe company withdrew its appropriation, but gave the use of the building. December 28, 1889, Mr. Roberts left and was followed by J. M. Davidson. Then came Matthew Francis. From 1890 to 1892 Charles Miller and Ernest Mills of men. We have 22 different deponding to say:

Our membership today is 1,068, Of this number 300 are Catholics, 300 belong to other churches and 460 have no church preference. Last year 502 men renewed their membership and 566 new members were taken in. The year of the country.

We have 22 different deponding.



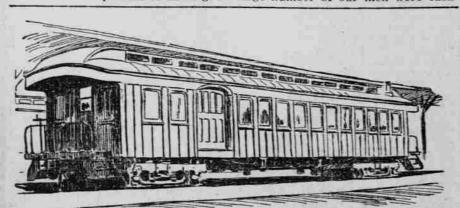
The Original Railroad Y. M. C. A. Building, Corner of Adams and Fourth

purchase the same.

Support From Santa Fe. All the support has come direct from the Santa company and the in-dividual railroad employees. The dividual railroad employees. The Santa Fe company appropriates \$1, 200 each year and heat, light and water is valued at \$1,130.20, making a total of \$2,330. The total running expenses outside of the company's help last year were \$6,517.03, making

help last year were \$6,517.03, making a total expense for the year of \$8.847.23. We have cash on hand, \$175, and all bills are paid to date.

Two hundred dollars were invested and are drawing interest. Three years ago we remodeled our bath plant, putting in improvements to the value of \$1,800.



Car in Which the First Railroad Y. M. C. A. Meetings Were Held.

their choice. More than 22,326 per-sons have attended all religious meetings. In the last ten years we have sent the following men into religious work as a direct result of our Bible

Those Now in Religious Work. John Kempton, general secretary,

A. L. Meyer, general secretary, Free-

Boukier, Colo.

Joe Bragg, physical work, Hull

House, Chicago.

April Lawrence. Ray McKee, boys' work, Lawrence,

Louie Waldelich, general secretary, Fort Scott, Kan. David Moore, assistant secretary,

The following men have entered the ministry from the influence of our work:

Rev. Chas. Weeks, Wesleyan church. Rev. E. B. Smith, Congregational Rev. John Zimmerman, Christian

Ranking of Railway "Y." The Topeka Railroad association

a few memberships to boys unable to |17 have united with the church of classes and gospel meetings:

William Boyes, general secretary,

Guy Gebhart, membership secretary,

Sapulca, Tex.

Rev. John Waldron, M. E. church.

church. The following are in college studying for the ministry: Lell Boyes, Drake university. William and Charles Zecker, Rochester, N. Y. Claude and Roy Blake were in Wash-burn college but have left. Claude is probation officer in Denver and Roy in association work in Chicago. R. A. Postman and Daniel Gibson are teach ing in the public schools.

stands as follows in comparison with

the other 234 railroad associations: Second in attendance at Bible

Second in educational diplomas won Third in number of Bible classes Fourth in number of Bible class

idents. Fourth in entertainments Fifth in socials.

Fifth in number of shop meetings.

Eighth in membership. Ninth in number of men who have Ninth in daily attendance at the

Tenth in lectures. Sixteenth in total attendance at all religious meetings. Twenty-first in number of professed

onversions.

Ninety-sixth in number of beds ased.

And fifty-fourth in the amount of money spent to accomplish the above results, as compared with some of the other railroad associations, accom-

Cost of Associations. Williamson, W. Va., spent \$59,710 last year; Philadelphia, \$39,105; New

plishing some similar results.



\$28,571; Brunswick, \$20, 822: Bradford, \$18,713; Topeka

Committee on Management

This work is made possible by the live, energetic, efficient men on our committee of management. They are: H. B. Lautz, president for the last nine years; A. D. Gray, vice president; John Shaw secretary. Shaw, secretary; George Sorensen, treasurer; M. C. Naylor, John Runyen, A. Harper, Frank Thomas, C. H. Hart, Fred Fuller, J. B. Norton, Wm. Ha-vens, J. B. Mullin, W. N. Rhodes, T. A. Ridings A. Ridings. The success of the work is also due

to the 136 men who are serving so faithfully on the different committees. The association that is satisfied with lower ideal than "All the railroad socials, receptions, lectures, practical alks, and entertainments, with a total attendance of 12,556 persons.

Our gymnasium, tennis attendance of socials, receptions, lectures, practical men and all of each railroad man for Christ and the church," is not worthy of its name and opportunity. It may have splended have splendid equipment, popularity with the officials and men, and adequate financial resources, yet, unless it perseveres in a faithful and con-tinuous endeavor to attain this ideal, its field is not fully occupied and its

ossibilities are untested. Employed Officers.

The present employed force con-sists of the following persons: Thomas E. Prout, general secretary; LeRoy Hetrick, assistant; Clifford Lortle, office boy; Thomas Williams, physical director; Earl Carmain, night secretary; Mrs. M. Orback, chambermaid; Leonard Cabbel and William White

## BOWSER TURNS TO SCIENCE.

Work.

Mr. Bowser was half an hour be his usual time from the office. The cook waited un-til she was alarmed, and she came upstairs and whispered to Mrs. Bow ser:
"Do you think it anything serious

"Hardly," was the reply.
"Would you say that he had gone up in a flying machine and can't come

"I don't think it."
"Would he have blowed himself up with dynamite?"

"I can't believe it."
"Would you say that he was going to experiment with a patent fuel when he does come?" "Or something to save half the

"I shouldn't worry if I were you. Mr. Bowser is liable to drop in any minute. If he finds fault about the dinner I'll take all the blame." Two minutes later the party in question appeared, looking calm and course?

"You are half an hour late," said head." Mrs. Bowser



SHE PASSED HER FINGERS OVER MR BOWSER'S SKULL"



## Strengthening the Sound Waves

FTER traveling a certain distance the electric wave A which carries the human voice along the telephone wire becomes attenuated and speech becomes unintelligible.

Just as in the old stage coach days fresh relays of horses at regular intervals along the way enabled the traveler to continue his journey with undiminished speed, so by means of loading coils inserted at proper intervals, the electrical waves are strengthened and the human voice carried great distances.

The loading coil is one of the many improvements and discoveries which the Bell engineers have applied to the Long Distance lines to facilitate and extend the service.



Every Bell Telephone is a Long Distance Station

## The Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company



THEY CALLS ME"THE RED HOOK LIAR"

and she therefore waited in patience till they had returned to the sitting room. Then Mr. Bowser produced a little book and looked it over for ten minutes before he said:

"You have heard of phrenology, of course? If I am not mistaken old Professor Fowler once examined your head."

"I gave it exactly as it is in the course, that you would slander me!"

"I gave it exactly as it is in the "Is that book about phrenology?" book."

"Well, let it go. If it was your in-

out his usual heat, and without violence to the family cat rubbing against he corners of his mouth, and a his leg. "If I'd have brought home a pocket Bible or gospel hymns it would have been just the same. Phrenology is a recognized science. It is an interesting study. Why not study it with me?"

out his usual heat, and without violence to the family cat rubbing against he queried as he pointed to the book in his hand.

"You have heard of phrenology?" he d Mr. Bowser, as his face began to lence to the family cat rubbing against he queried as he pointed to the book in his hand.

"Has the mistress any complaint to make of the cooking?" she asked in reply.

"Not that I know of. I was asking you if you knew about phrenology.

"Well, I'm expecting to he arrested ing you if you knew about phrenology.

Then take the book and feel of my id. All the bumps are named." "And if what I find doesn't happen to suit you, there'll be a row. Let us have a game of cards and pass a

leasant evening." don't be silly," coax-"Now, then, don't be silly," cos-ingly remarked Mr. Bowser. "Le see what there is to this thing. pledge you my word not to be niffed, even if you find me a murderer. Take the book and give it a trial. Mrs. Bowser allowed herself to be persuaded. Selecting a chart of a man's head, she passed her fingers

gurgling at intervals in his throat indicated to Mrs. Bowser during the dinner hour that Mr. Bowser had a surprise party in store for her. It was useless for her to guess what it was,

"Is that book about phrenology?" she quietly asked.
"It is, I am going to post myself a bit. Today I felt the heads of three different men in the office and told the character of each and every one."
It seemed a simple thing, and yet I seemed a simple thing, and expected you'd say something that Mr. Bowser was about to spring a nean," replied Mr. Bowser, but without his usual heat, and without violations. The cook was sure that it meant that Mr. Bowser was about to spring a nean," replied Mr. Bowser, but without violations to turn me from my purpose, Well, let it go. If it was your intention to turn me from my purpose, You have failed. I shall continue to study the art. Perhaps the cook won't object to becoming a subject."

"I thought it was about time! I believe it's about a week since you dropped the last new thing."

"I expected you'd say something mean," replied Mr. Bowser, but without violations. The cook was Just finishing her different men in the office and told the character of each and every one."

"I thought it was about time! I believe it's about a week since you dropped the last new thing."

"I don't even believe in a hereafter. I' don'

teresting study. Why not study it with me?"

"Because I don't believe in it. You might as well feel of the corns and bunions on a person's foot as the bumps on his head."

"You'd say that, of course, but I can convince you to the contrary. I'll feel of your bumps, and with the aid of this little book I'll read your character as straight as a string. Just sit where you are, and—"

"You'll do nothing of the kind!" she interrupted. "It's all nonsense, and you'd better put in your time reading history."

"Then take the book and feel of my"

"Not that I know of. I was ask-ing where was about phrenology. It relates to the bumps of your head, if you knew about phrenology. It relates to the bumps of your head, if you afternoon. Your phrenology, or whateven you call it, don't seem to work. I guess your wife is right."

"It never works unless there are brains under the bumps in stand! All of us have bumps on our heads. By feeling of the bum

"But isn't me cookin' all right?" de-manded the woman.
"I said it was."
"Then who's to care about the bumps on me head, or me disposi-

'You don't understand yet," continued Mr. Bowser. "By feeling of the bumps on you head I can tell you—"
"You'll never feel of me bumps while I'm alive!" interrupted the cook, "and if you hain't out of this kitchen in two jiffs, I'll walk off and leave you without a cook!"

an's head, she passed her fingers

Mr. Bowser retired. It was a question whether he retired in good order
or not. He realized that Mrs. Bowser
"According to phrenology, your bump had stood at the head of the stairs"

Man Takes His Own Medicine Is an Optimist

He has absolute faith in his medicine—he knows when he takes it for certain allments be gets relief. People who take Dr. King's New Discovery for an irritating Colu are optimists—they know this cough remedy will penetrate the linings of the throat, kill the germs, and open the way for Nature to act. You can't destroy a Cold by superficial treatment—you must go to the cause of the trouble. He an optimist. Get a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery to-day.—Adv.

and overheard all, and that he had made a mess of it. She had a smile on her face as he entered the sitting room and that smile brought a deter-mination to his heart to conquer or

die.

"You—you probably advise me to give it up, don't you?" he asked.

"You might practice outside," she

"And so I will," he retorted, as the red came to his face. "I've set out to post myself on phrenology, and by the beard of my grandfather, I'll do

He walked out into the hall, clapped on his hat and opened the door and stepped out. There was a man hanging over a near-by gate. He wasn't a tramp, but a workingman who was sweet on a girl working next door, and was waiting for her to ap-pear. Mr. Bowser called to him and he came in off the street and asked what was wanted.

dollars in about fifteen minutes?" was

You bet!" "Have you ever heard of phrenol-

"If I have, I've forgotten. Is the "Phrenology has to do with the bumps on your head. I feel of your them. I believe in it, but my wife doesn't. I want you to come and sit down for a few minutes while I show her that I'm right."

The man was willing. He followed

Mr. Bowser in and was referred to as a "subject." Mrs. Bowser kept her chair and became interested.

"Now, then," began Mr. Bowser, after two minutes spent in locating the various bumps, "I find your bumps of musical talent above the average. I should say that you can play on several different instruments and have a fairly good voice."

"Lord save you, sir." gasped the man, "but I never could ever raise a tune on a mouthorgan, and as for singing, everybody runs away when

that is, don't you love children?"
"Well, I'm expecting to be arrested tomorrow for lambasting a kid this

woman, this thing has gone to the limit! The conspiracy is plain! In your malicious desire to—to—"

Then Mrs. Bowser began to laugh. He gestured, but it did not stop her. He towered over her, but she continued to laugh. He shouted something about his lawyer and her lawyer and divorce, but she hung to her chair and laughed. There were but one way to laughed. There was but one way to save his dignity. Like a crowbar on legs he marched down the hall, and bumps like a crowbar with stiff knees he ed the mounted the stairs, and two hours of this off and and his bump of conceit all flattened out.—(Copyright, 1915, by the Mc-

Clure Newspaper Syndicate.) Bank of Topeka